



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96665

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5000

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From: Commanding Officer, USS FORD (FFG 54)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington,  
DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

  
J. D. PRICE

## Command Composition and Organization

a. USS FORD (FFG 54) is the forty-eighth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry class of guided missile frigates; the Navy's largest destroyer class built since World War II. Her mission is to provide in-depth anti-air, anti-surface and anti-subsurface protection for military and merchant shipping and to ensure continuous use of the sea lanes of communication for the United States and her allies.

b. The Combat Systems aboard utilize a computer command and control system to integrate the ship's sensors and weapons. Her weapons include surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, a 76mm rapid fire gun, a close-in weapons system, anti-submarine torpedoes and the LAMPS MK III helicopter.

c. The propulsion system is a computer controlled gas turbine power plant which utilizes jet engines similar to those found on commercial airliners. FORD'S propulsion system can be "brought on the line" in less than five minutes.

d. Despite the advanced systems aboard, the heart of the ship is the crew. Each member has been highly trained in his particular area of expertise so that he can either operate, monitor or repair all shipboard systems. FORD'S crew is composed of 15 officers, 14 chief petty officers and 177 enlisted men.

e. In March 1987, FORD was reassigned from Commander, Surface Squadron ONE to Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE. While remaining under the administrative control of COMDESRON NINE throughout the year, FORD was assigned operationally to Commander, Middle East Force as a member of the Joint Task Force, Middle East from September - December 1987. On 23 May 87, CDR J.D. Price relieved CDR J.F. Eckler as Commanding Officer of FORD. A two plane LAMPS MK III detachment, HSL 45 Det 2 embarked in FORD on 17 August for a six month Persian Gulf deployment.

## CHRONOLOGY

1-19 Jan: Leave/Upkeep Period inport Long Beach  
15-16 Jan: Medical Readiness Exam  
20-23 Jan: Command Inspection by COMSURFRON ONE including:  
    CMS Inspection  
    Physical Security Inspection  
    Welfare & Recreation Fund Inspection  
26-30 Jan: Underway SOCAL OPAREA's - Engineering and Combat Systems Training,  
    Helicopter Operations  
28 Jan: Achieved Helicopter Training Certification Level B  
2-8 Feb: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA as Orange Force unit in READIEX 87-2  
5-6 Feb: Search and Rescue effort ICO F/V Fish 'n Fool  
9-11 Feb: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA as Orange Force unit in Battle Group  
    Evaluation (BGE)  
12-16 Feb: Inport Long Beach - Naval Station Long Beach RED CELL Security  
    Exercise  
17-19 Feb: Underway SOCAL OPAREA's for Engineering and Combat Systems Training  
23-27 Feb: ASW Phase II Team Trainer  
23 Feb: SRBOC Certification  
23 Feb - 6 Mar: On-site Calibration  
25 Feb: Harpoon Re-Certification  
1 Mar: Assigned to COMDESRON NINE  
9-12 Mar: Transit to Mazatlan, Mexico with HSL 45 Det 2 and Coast Guard Law  
    Enforcement Detachment embarked  
13-16 Mar: Visit Mazatlan Mexico  
17-20 Mar: Transit to Long Beach, CA  
21 Mar - 20 Apr: Inport Long Beach  
23-25 Mar: Surface Warfare Training Week  
23-26 Mar: Aviation Certification Inspection  
26 Mar: 2nd Annual FORD Athletic Competition  
2 Apr: Aviation Readiness Evaluation  
13-17 Apr: Combat Systems Training - 20B5 Van  
17 Apr: Personnel Inspection and Awards Presentation  
21-23 Apr: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA's for ECC Drills and Helo Operations  
24 Apr: Achieved Helicopter Training Certification Level A  
24 Apr: Inport NWS Seal Beach for Ammo Onload  
24 Apr - 25 May: Inport Long Beach  
2-20 May: Class Maintenance Plan IMAV 2  
11-14 May: Link 11 Groom  
17 May - 12 Jun: Midshipman Training  
18-20 May: Supply Management Inspection  
23 May: USS FORD Change of Command Ceremony  
26 May: Industrial Hygiene Survey  
26 May - 5 Jun: Training Availability in San Diego CA  
29 May: Transit Long Beach to San Diego  
1-5 Jun: Gas Turbine Engine Inspection  
    Combat Systems Refresher Team Training  
    KW-46 Installation  
6 Jun: Dependents Cruise from San Diego to Long Beach  
8 Jun: Ammo Onload at NWS Seal Beach  
9-21 Jun: Inport Long Beach

Enclosure (2)

10-11 Jun: Dumbwaiter Improvement Program  
 14 Jun: Enter drydock at Long Beach Naval Shipyard for fin stabilizer repairs  
 16-19 Jun: SLQ32 Groom  
 17 Jun: Undocking, return to NAVSTA Long Beach  
 22-26 Jun: Underway SOCAL OPAREA's for Combat Systems and Engineering Training and Helicopter Operations  
 23 Jun: Defense Science Study Group visits FORD  
 27-30 Jun: Inport Long Beach CA  
 30 Jun: Pre-Deployment briefings for dependents  
 1-3 Jul: Transit to Vallejo, CA. Conduct ECC drills and helicopter operations  
 3-5 Jul: Visit Vallejo, CA for Independence Day celebration  
 6-9 Jul: Underway in NOCAL OPAREA's  
 7-8 Jul: Conducted two Standard Missile firings at Pacific Missile Test Center  
 10-23 Jul: Inport San Diego  
 13-23 Jul: Training Availability  
 13-23 Jul: Restricted maintenance availability with USS Cape Cod  
 14 Jul: Medical Readiness Exam  
 14 Jul: UNREP Equipment Review  
 16-17 Jul: Underwater Hull Cleaning/Inspection  
 16 Jul: Threat Brief by Naval Security Group  
 16-17 Jul: UNREP Dockside Trainer  
 20 Jul: ALE-49 Installation  
 20-22 Jul: ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment (IERA)  
 21 Jul: Ship Store Inspection  
 21 Jul: Terrorist Threat Brief - NIS  
 21-22 Jul: ASW Phase III Team Trainer  
 22 Jul: Intelligence Brief - FITCPAC  
 23 Jul: OPDEC brief - FLTCORGRU  
 23 Jul: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA's for ASW Training  
 24 Jul: Inport NWS Seal Beach for Ammo Onload  
 24-28 Jul: Inport Long Beach CA  
 27-31 Jul: Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT)  
 29 Jul: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA for CSRT  
 30 Jul - 2 Aug: Inport Long Beach CA  
 3 Aug: Inport NWS Seal Beach for ammo offload  
 3 Aug: Enter Todd Shipyard, San Pedro CA  
 4-13 Aug: Drydocked in synchrolift at Todd Shipyard for Sonar Repairs  
 14 Aug: Inport NWS Seal Beach for Ammo Onload  
 13-16 Aug: Inport Long Beach for Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Period  
 17 Aug: Depart Long Beach for six month deployment to Persian Gulf  
 Rendezvous with USS THACH  
 Embark HSL 45 Det 2 (two planes)  
 17-21 Aug: Transit to Pearl Harbor  
 22-23 Aug: Inport Pearl Harbor  
 22 Aug: CINCPACFLT and COMNAVCENT Briefings  
 24 Aug - 4 Sep: Transit to Subic Bay RP  
 28 Aug: Cross International Dateline  
 29 Aug: CHOP to COMSEVENTHFLT  
 30 Aug: UNREP with USNS MISPILLION

4-11 Sep: Helicopters Lonewolf 42 and 45 to NAS Cubi Point RP for weapon systems modification  
 5-10 Sep: Inport Subic Bay RP for voyage repairs and Westpac briefings  
 9 Sep: CPO Initiation at Subic Bay CPO Club  
 11-13 Sep: Transit to Singapore  
 14-15 Sep: Visit Singapore - Sembawang Shipyard  
 16-19 Sep: Transit to Columbo, Sri Lanka  
 20 Sep: Brief stop for fuel in Columbo, Sri Lanka  
 20-25 Sep: Transit Indian Ocean to Gulf of Oman  
 24 Sep: UNREP with USS KANSAS CITY  
 25 Sep: CHOP to Commander, Middle East Force. Member of Joint Task Force Middle East  
 26 Sep: Conducted turnover brief with USS JARRETT (FFG 33) off Fujarah, Oman  
 27-28 Sep: Underway in Gulf of Oman in company with THACH and RALEIGH  
 29 Sep - 1 Oct: In company with RENTZ and THACH, escorted USS RALEIGH, M/V Patriot and M/V Gus Darnell through Straits of Hormuz to Bahrain  
 1 Oct: Rendezvous with COMIDEASTFOR flagship for briefings. COMIDEASTFOR visit.  
 2-3 Oct: Conduct operations Northern Persian Gulf  
 4-Oct: Brief stop for fuel and stores in Bahrain  
 4-5 Oct: Escort M/V Gus Darnell to Straits of Hormuz  
 6-8 Oct: Conduct operations in Southern Persian Gulf  
 8 Oct: Brief stop for fuel off Ras Al Kaimah  
 8 Oct: FORD helicopter fired on from Rostam Oil Platform; No Damage  
 8-10 Oct: Escort USS RALEIGH  
 11-12 Oct: Join Earnest Will transit 87-011  
 13-19 Oct: Conduct operations in Northern Persian Gulf  
 20-22 Oct: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-012 from Kuwait to Straits of Hormuz  
 23-25 Oct: Patrol in Southern Persian Gulf  
 26-28 Oct: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-013 to Kuwait  
 29 Oct - 1 Nov: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-014 from Kuwait to Gulf of Oman  
 2-4 Nov: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-015 from Gulf of Oman to Bahrain  
 5-7 Nov: At anchor SITRAH for upkeep, provisions and liberty after 50 days underway  
 8-16 Nov: Conduct operations in Northern Persian Gulf  
 13 Nov: CNO Visit  
 17-19 Nov: Inport Bahrain  
 2-28 Nov: Conduct operations in Northern Persian Gulf  
 23 Nov: FORD helicopter, Lonewolf 42, sights and destroys mine  
 28 Nov: FORD helicopter, Lonewolf 42, sights and destroys second mine  
 28 Nov - 1 Dec: At anchor off Kuwait  
 2-5 Dec: Escorted M/V Courier from Kuwait to Gulf of Oman  
 6-7 Dec: Patrol Gulf of Oman in company with USS ELROD  
 8-12 Dec: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-020 from Gulf of Oman to Kuwait  
 13 Dec: Transit to Bahrain  
 14-19 Dec: Inport Bahrain  
 20-22 Dec: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-021 from Bahrain to Gulf of Oman  
 23-25 Dec: Patrol Straits of Hormuz  
 26-27 Dec: Transit Straits of Hormuz to Northern Persian Gulf  
 28-31 Dec: Conduct operations in Northern Persian Gulf

## NARRATIVE

FORD began the year having completed all basic test, certifications and inspections required of a new ship. Inport and at-sea training periods during the first half of the year concentrated on advanced training exercises required to achieve proficiency in all mission areas. Effective administration and organization was demonstrated in every area during a highly successful command inspection by Commander, Surface Squadron ONE. Operationally, FORD performed equally well as an Orange Force Unit during READIEX 87-2 and the subsequent Battle Group Evaluation. Her participation as on-scene commander and support platform for numerous air assets during an actual search and rescue mission drew praise from both Navy and Coast Guard commanders.

Major milestones were consistently achieved with professionalism and high standards. Aviation Facilities Certification was granted without the benefit of the normally scheduled Technical Assist. The exceptional Aviation Assist Visit was upgraded to a full Aviation Readiness Evaluation. Supply Department received its best evaluation ever in completing a no-notice Supply Management Inspection (SMI). FORD's performance during the SMI led to qualification for both the Ney and Best Ships Store awards. A port visit to Mazatlan, Mexico provided the crew with a much needed break during this period.

On 1 March 1987, FORD shifted from COMSURFRON ONE to Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE. Command of the FORD changed on 23 May 87 when CDR J.D. Price relieved CDR J.F. Eckler. RADM R.A.K. Taylor, COMCRUDESGRU ONE was the principal speaker at the Change of Command ceremony.

In recognition of the growing Naval presence in the Persian Gulf, FORD was scheduled in mid-June to deploy on 17 August. The final two months were demanding as the ship completed a myriad of pre-deployment tests and preparations. Two successful standard missile firings were conducted at the Pacific Missile Test Center. A scheduled two week training availability in San Diego ultimately included a restricted maintenance availability, highly successful ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment, completion of TMA and ASW Phase III team trainers as well as several pre-deployment threat and intelligence briefings. An extremely successful Combat Systems Readiness Test was marred only by the discovery of faulty elements in the sonar. Repairs to the sonar necessitated offload of all ammunition and drydocking at Todd Shipyard in San Pedro. The drydocking, repairs and subsequent ammo onload were professionally carried out and FORD deployed on 17 August with no CASREP's and M-1 in all mission areas.

For the deployment, FORD embarked two SH-60B helicopters with HSL 45, Detachment 2. The transit to the Middle East was completed in company with USS THACH (FFG-43). Port visits during the transit included: Pearl Harbor, for briefings by CINCPACFLT and NAVCENT staffs; Subic Bay, for a short maintenance availability and modifications to the helicopters; and Singapore for fuel and liberty. Following a brief stop for fuel in Columbo, Sri Lanka, FORD joined the Middle East Force, as a member of the Joint Task Force Middle East.

Enclosure (3)

Following turnover with the USS JARRETT (FFG-33) in the Gulf of Oman on 26 September, FORD completed three months of near non-stop operations in support of the Middle East Force. Duties included patrols throughout the Persian Gulf, escort of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and U.S. merchants, support of U.S. minesweeping efforts and surveillance of the Northern Persian Gulf. During this period which included 52 consecutive days underway, the crew stood port and starboard Condition I watches. Flight operations, involving embarked and other service helicopters, averaged nearly 10 hours per day. Highlights included FORD's participation in seven Earnest Will escort missions, the sighting and destruction of two mines by embarked helicopters and a visit by the Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Trost.

The year ended with FORD underway in the Northern Persian Gulf conducting surveillance of Iranian and Iraqi operations and supporting U.S. minesweeping efforts.